



Cured-in-Place-Pipe Lining FAQ

What is cured-in-place-pipe lining?

Cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining, commonly known as “sewer lining,” is a method of sewer repair. It is a cost-effective and non-invasive process that involves inserting a soft plastic liner inside a pipe, then curing (hardening) the liner with pressurized steam. The liner forms a smooth surface inside the existing pipe, restoring it to near-new condition.



Why is this work being done?

Many of Somerville’s pipes are nearly a century old and need to be repaired due to their age, deteriorating functionality, or other problems. CIPP lining improves the structural integrity of existing sewer pipes and increases flow capacity. The lined pipe then becomes more resistant to holes, breaks, and joint failures. Sewer lining requires little or no excavation and significantly less time to complete than other sewer repair methods.

Does CIPP lining produce an odor?

During pipe rehabilitation, a plastic- or glue-like odor may be detectable. The CIPP process uses a styrene monomer resin to rehabilitate the pipes. Styrene is a chemical used to make many types of plastic and resins. Styrene can be detected by its smell even when very small amounts are present. This smell will dissipate quickly once the process is complete.



The City of Somerville

Engineering Division
Infrastructure & Asset Management

Are there any health hazards associated with CIPP lining?

Since its inception approximately 40 years ago, CIPP lining is rapidly becoming an industry standard for pipe rehabilitation. Styrene exposure levels from the CIPP process are significantly below safe-exposure standards established by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) also has regulations and requirements for all CIPP projects. The City of Somerville adheres to regulatory laws to provide a safe environment for the public.

What else should I expect during CIPP construction?

Moderate noise from compressors, blowers, truck engines, and bypass pumps should be expected. On-street parking restrictions expected on both sides of the work zone. Lane shifts and isolated lane closures will be in effect.

Additional Questions and Support

If you have additional questions, please call the Engineering Division at 617-625-6600 ext. 5400 or email construction@somervillema.gov.

For any translation requests, contact 311(617-666-3311) or SomerViva@somervillema.gov.

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids or reasonable modifications should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov.